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To: R7 Senior Staff [R7_Senior_Staff@epa.gov]
Subject: R7 OPA Daily Clippings - 2/23/21

EARNED NEWS

KWQC Ch. 6 Davenport IA - EPA takes steps to monitor PFAS in drinking water – 2/22/21 - The EPA issued two actions to protect public health by addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water. The agency is attempting to address these long-lasting chemicals that can enter drinking water supplies and impact communities across the United States. <http://bit.ly/3kfQ6ck>

Bloomberg Law - EPA Moves Ahead 'Forever Chemicals' Regulation, Monitoring – 2/22/21 - The EPA said Monday it's moving forward with an unregulated contaminant monitoring rule for drinking water and final regulatory determinations for two types of "forever chemicals." <https://bit.ly/2MIQuJU>

Inside EPA – After Review, Biden EPA Backs Trump-Era PFAS Drinking Water Decisions – 2/22/21 - The Biden EPA is moving forward with decisions to develop drinking water standards for two of the most well-studied per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and to propose monitoring for dozens of PFAS in drinking water to determine if other rules are needed, backing decisions the agency made at the end of the Trump administration. <http://bit.ly/3bxMRJh>

R7 IN THE NEWS

Inside EPA - EPA updates COVID-19 workplace safety plan – 2/22/21 - EPA has issued an updated COVID-19 workplace safety plan that it will use to guide its pandemic response and eventual reopening of offices, even as the Biden administration has indefinitely paused reopening -- a reversal from the Trump administration that had been seeking to force employees back to in-person work. <http://bit.ly/3dEzGsB>

KHGI Ch. 13 Kearney NE - Mead residents look for answers after burst pipe causes spill – 2/22/21 - But Thorson isn't as sure who will actually be cleaning the spill up. "Someone is gonna have to clean it up, doesn't seem like Alt En has the money from what I hear, so I guess it will be taxpayer dollars," said Thorson. <https://bit.ly/3ut25bo>

Bloomberg Law - Asphalt Maker, EPA Limit Future Development at Former Lead Mine – 2/22/21 - The EPA and an asphalt company agreed to lock down a Missouri lead-contaminated soil dump to prevent future development in a proposed consent decree in federal district court. Delta Asphalt Inc. owns a contaminated property that is part of the Madison County Mines Superfund site. The company and the Environmental Protection Agency proposed land use restrictions in a consent decree in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. <https://bit.ly/3kdegEt>

REGIONAL

KSMU Ozarks Public Radio - Missouri Department Of Agriculture Looks To Update Pesticide Training – 2/22/21 - The Missouri Department of Agriculture is updating the way it teaches farmers to safely use pesticides, with the goals of making it easier for them and keeping the process under state control. <http://bit.ly/3dB3J4B>

KCRG Ch. 9 Cedar Rapids IA - Initial findings show goose, duck illness, deaths in Coralville due to extreme winter weather – 2/22/21 - State wildlife officials said on Monday that the recent extremely cold weather in eastern Iowa may be to blame for the death of dozens of geese along the Iowa River in Coralville. <http://bit.ly/37I4xAR>

Omaha World-Herald - Midlands Voices: Renewables provide a sound energy path for Nebraska – 2/23/21 - Gov. Ricketts' statement blaming wind energy for electric outages was misleading and his proposed solution of reliance on coal profoundly misguided. It would ultimately worsen the problem. <http://bit.ly/2ZG37Cn>

Brownfield Ag News – Supporting River Infrastructure (audio-4:99) – 2/23/21 - In this edition, Missouri Corn Growers Association President and farmer Jay Fischer highlights the importance of river infrastructure to Missouri corn farmers, recovery from 2019 flooding and how MCGA is helping improve river infrastructure. <http://bit.ly/3aL8Z3K>

Muscatine (IA) Journal - Citizens object to proposed hog confinement near Letts – 2/22/21 - After spending close to an hour hearing concerns about a proposed hog confinement in Muscatine County, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors had a split vote to approve a letter to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) regarding the permit application. <http://bit.ly/2NwGCNY>

KCRG Ch. 13 Cedar Rapids IA - Missouri River ice jam causes concern for drinking water and wastewater systems – 2/22/21 - An ice jam in the Missouri River between Jefferson City and Glasgow on Monday caused some concerns for operators of area drinking water and wastewater systems. The ice created low water levels that could prevent intake structures in the river from working properly. <http://bit.ly/3dG2Nf5>

AgNewsWire - Daugherty Water for Food Podcast – Episode 6 – 2/22/21 - This episode of the [Daugherty Water for Food](http://bit.ly/3pFXq24) podcast features a discussion on nitrates in Nebraska groundwater. <http://bit.ly/3pFXq24>

TRANSITION 2021

Associated Press - Interior nominee Deb Haaland vows 'balance' on energy, climate – 2/22/21 - Deb Haaland, a New Mexico congresswoman named to lead the Interior Department, said she is committed to "strike the right balance" as the agency manages energy development and seeks to restore and protect the nation's sprawling federal lands. <http://bit.ly/3dE4JF3>

Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette – Letter: Bipartisan climate action is good for the economy – 2/22/21 - I was pleased to see Joni Ernst expressing her concerns about our climate in her Jan. 20 Facebook

post, particularly her call to focus “on reducing our emissions and meeting our energy needs through market-driven, innovative solutions.” <http://bit.ly/3qQShWq>

Bloomberg Green - Biden’s Climate Czar on the Texas Electricity Mess, Green Energy – 2/23/21 - Gina McCarthy wants market-based signals to power America’s push to achieve its climate goals. <http://bloom.bg/3qMrJFN>

Climatewire - Judge refuses to put NEPA litigation on ice – 2/22/21 - A federal judge has rejected the Biden administration’s request to pause litigation over former President Trump’s changes to National Environmental Policy Act rules. <http://bit.ly/3qNMv7T>

Bloomberg Law – Interior Pick Haaland Draws GOP Ire With Fracking Opposition – 2/22/21 - Interior Secretary-designate Deb Haaland’s opposition to fracking, early endorsement of the Green New Deal and participation in protests against an oil pipeline in South Dakota have made her one of President Joe Biden’s most controversial cabinet nominees. <https://bit.ly/3qOX2zw>

Bloomberg Law - Judges Keep Clean Power Plan on Ice While Biden Crafts New Rules – 2/22/21 - The Clean Power Plan remains sidelined as judges agreed Monday to hold off on scrapping repeal of the Obama-era carbon rule while the Biden administration reviews climate and environmental standards. <https://bit.ly/3dE3F40>

FUELS

Farm Forum - Processor comes out in support of Iowa Biofuels Standard – 2/23/21 - Ag Processing Inc has announced its support for the Iowa Biofuels Standard, a state legislative initiative that would support biofuel production and use in the state of Iowa. <http://bit.ly/3aL5472>

Energy AgWired - LCFS and RFS – Conflict or Complement? – 2/22/21 - Do Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) policies conflict or complement the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS)? That was the question Dr. Jarrett Whistance with the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri was called on to answer at last week’s National Ethanol Conference. <https://bit.ly/3sm52Za>

CORONAVIRUS

Wichita (KS) Eagle - Kansas COVID case report is best since September; KU doctor says keep wearing masks – 2/22/21 - Monday’s coronavirus pandemic update for Kansas was the best in more than five months for new cases of COVID-19. <http://bit.ly/3upkK7E>

USA Today Network - COVID-19 cases surge 548.4% in Iowa – 2/22/21 - New coronavirus cases leaped in Iowa in the week ending Sunday, rising 548.4% as 30,267 cases were reported. Iowa changed how it reports cases, moving from individual people to positive test results. <http://bit.ly/2Mgtvvp>

Associated Press - Wastewater Testing Finds UK Variant 'Widespread' In Missouri – 2/22/21 -

The number of new Missouri coronavirus cases continued to decline on Monday, but state officials cite one cause for concern: Wastewater samples indicate the fast-spreading U.K. variant is “widespread” across the state. <http://bit.ly/2ZGMztY>

NPR - 'A Loss To The Whole Society': U.S. COVID-19 Death Toll Reaches 500,000 – 2/22/21 -

This week President Biden is asking Americans to mark the 500,000 deaths with a moment of silence at sunset Monday. He's also ordered flags on all federal buildings lowered to half-staff for five days. <http://n.pr/2ZG2xor>

NATIONAL

Brownfield Ag News - Climate a major focus as MOSES Organic Farming Conference gets underway – 2/22/21 -

How climate and agriculture intersect dominated day one of the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) virtual conference. <http://bit.ly/2RadN8e>

Chemical & Engineering News - Climate change will force boost in electrical grid capacity, mostly from renewables – 2/22/21 -

New study shows that accounting for climate change could help avoid costly investment mistakes while planning for future power-generation needs.

<http://bit.ly/3aNUOGp>

EcoWatch - Use of Disinfectants Has Soared, Sparking New Examination of Ingredients – 2/22/21 -

Disinfectant use has exploded during the coronavirus pandemic as people try to keep their hands and surfaces clean. But one family of cleaning chemicals is receiving scrutiny for potential health concerns. <http://bit.ly/2NQCFnd>

Washington Post - The battle over climate change is boiling over on the home front – 2/23/21 -

Municipalities want new buildings to go all electric, spurning gas-fired stoves and heating systems. The gas industry disagrees. <http://wapo.st/37B7u6j>

Greenwire - Court axes Trump-era power plant rule – 2/22/21 -

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit took final action to undo the Affordable Clean Energy rule today, as it agreed to delay axing the Trump administration's repeal of the Clean Power Plan.

<http://bit.ly/3bBeuRE>

Bloomberg Law - A Reckoning Hits Electric Grids Built for Last Century's Climate – 2/23/21 -

It's not the new technology of renewable power that's destabilizing the electric grid. It's the new weather. <https://bit.ly/2NAbJlv>

Bloomberg Law - 5G's Society-Changing Promise Carries 'Forever Chemicals' Price – 2/23/21 -

Components allowing 5G data-transfer speed rely on PFAS. Yet the substances' unique properties make them tough to replace. <https://bit.ly/3bB4szU>

Bloomberg Law – EPA Chemicals Memo Sparks Concern of More 'Regulatory Rabies' – 2/22/21

- Auto, airplane, and other manufacturers could lose the right to use certain flame retardants,

lubricants, and other chemicals they deem essential, now that the Biden EPA is reviewing exemptions to five toxic substances rules granted during the Trump era. <https://bit.ly/3upifT0>

Inside EPA – Trump EPA Waste Chief Urges Review Of RCRA, CERCLA To Manage PFAS –

2/22/21 - Trump EPA waste office chief Peter Wright says the agency should review the potential for a “holistic” approach to managing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) with a possible Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste designation or Superfund hazardous substance listing for two of the chemicals. <http://bit.ly/3khV1cP>

Inside EPA – FERC To Study Climate, Extreme Weather Threats To Grid Reliability – 2/22/21 - On

the heels of a bitter cold snap that caused widespread blackouts in Texas, federal energy regulators say they will launch a new proceeding to study the power reliability threats caused by climate change and various extreme weather events, the regulators’ second effort to assess climate-related issues since a recent change in leadership. <http://bit.ly/2ZKMdCF>

Inside EPA – House Democrats push EPA to tighten Trump-era coal ash proposal – 2/22/21 - A

group of 38 House Democrats is urging EPA to strengthen and finalize a still-pending Trump-era proposal on regulating coal ash disposal that they say could provide a vehicle for new limits on the use of coal ash as a structural fill material at sites like former mines. <http://bit.ly/3sq7IFn>

Inside EPA – EPA Faces High Bar For TSCA Bans Despite Discretion, Attorney Says – 2/22/21 -

TSCA may give the Biden administration broad latitude for strict risk management rules based on its 10 Trump-era chemical evaluations, but the agency may still struggle to justify the outright bans environmentalists have sought unless it first reopens those risk reviews, says an industry consultant and former EPA scientist. <http://bit.ly/3sowF3l>

Inside EPA – Environmentalists Seek New Toxics Mapping To Aid TSCA Equity Efforts – 2/22/21

- Environmental justice (EJ) advocates are urging EPA to develop a more robust nationwide mapping system to identify communities impacted by toxic chemicals as part of its TSCA work, in an early marker for how they will seek to integrate the Biden administration’s sweeping EJ agenda into the chemicals program. <http://bit.ly/3qQQ1Pd>

Inside EPA – Circular economy proponents tout pollution reduction, economic benefits –

2/23/21 - Proponents of a circular economy, which aims to eliminate waste and pollution, are touting the approach as a way to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions as well as provide economic benefits, pointing to several advantages that will come from shifting to a circular economy as outlined in a new action plan. <http://bit.ly/3kgmXh6>

E&E News - Groups ask Congress for climate, energy spending – 2/23/21 - A large coalition of

environmental groups is pushing Congress to spend big on climate, as lawmakers prepare to write infrastructure legislation. <http://bit.ly/3kcXrte>